

Minutes of Meeting  
CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION  
Newton Police Department – The Community Room  
7:00pm – Wednesday - October 20, 2010

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Commissioners Present: Frank Wolpe (Chair), George Cullen, Leonard Fisher, Bernard Goulding, Marjorie Kagan, Colleen Rosenbaum, Scott, Rosenbaum, Benjamin Rubin, Fred Winer

Commissioners Absent: Lois Bruno, Marc Epstein, Frances Shaer, David Winer

Ex-Officio Members, Present: Jeff Silton

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Bruce Apotheker (his birthday), Matt Cummings

Regular Invited Guests Present: Richard Catrambone, Debra Darcy

Regular Invited Guests Absent: Ellen Manning, Richard Dyer

Guest Speaker: NPD Officer Eric Rosenbaum

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Frank Wolpe, Chair.

Frank then opened the meeting and reminded those present that we were operating under a new “Open Meeting Law” passed by our state legislature and implemented by Mayor Setti Warren. He then proceeded to review our coverage under the law as well as the application of its provisions.

On Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Chair received an announcement from the Office of Mayor Setti Warren. The Mayor had decided to apply the State’s Open Meeting Laws to all Boards, Commissions and Committees, including our group. So that we would all begin to understand how this was going to work, the Mayor convened a meeting of all Chairs at City Hall on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Accordingly, the Chair reviewed the details of what was learned from City Hall executives, the City of Newton Board and Committee Meeting Guide & Minute Takers Manual, and the City Clerk’s PowerPoint slides. He also reported about a subsequent visit with David Olson, City Clerk on the same subject. Thus, all present learned about how the new procedures apply to individual members and the group. Several items from the City Clerk’s office were distributed and thoroughly discussed: (1) a City Clerk PowerPoint presentation, (2) the MA Attorney General’s Open Meeting Law Guide, (3) 940 CMR Regulations; and (4) a Certificate of Receipt for Open Meeting Materials. The latter item was signed by all present and returned to the Chair for delivery to the City Clerk.

We then moved to a discussion of “Elder Fraud” with a view toward forming a new Committee to begin work on elder affairs. It was noted that the CPC Mission Statement provides, in part, that:

“The Commission is pledged to be proactive about better informing the population to ensure that older Newtonians will live with dignity, integrity, independence, and without abuse, neglect, and exploitation...”

NPD Officer Eric Rosenbaum, Elder Affairs Officer, as the invited guest, spoke impressively about how NPD deals with folks who try to cheat older members of our community. He shared some fascinating experiences with scams like sucker lists, phishing, fake charities, telemarketing misrepresentation, city water and sewer fakers, the “grandchild in distress” game, identity theft, credit card fraud, contractor fraud, Springwell Protective Services, and especially, the Silver Alert Program. There was considerable discussion about how this very useful knowledge base should be shared with the larger community. We will do that by working on outreach and engagement.

In the near term, for outreach, members spoke in favor of looking to discover ways the Commission might work together with NPD to offer a new presentation of one or more discrete topics at the Newton Senior Center. If that works well, we might then position ourselves to turn it into a road show the City can offer at other senior sites. In short, this kind of a presentation by NPD Officer Eric Rosenbaum, and potentially other speakers as well, could result in useful strategic engagement. After doing a couple of these, we might then be well positioned to ask New TV for some air time and/or the Newton TAB for some print space. In other words, it might be a good idea to take it on the road, so to speak, before elevating it to television and/or the newspaper. Having a road show initially would smooth out an NPD presentation and help with fielding questions not anticipated.

The Chair also asked for one or more people, members or regular invited visitors, to step forward as liaison persons to open talks with people at the Newton Senior Center about ways we might work together. Before our next monthly meeting, the Chair agreed to discuss these possibilities with the NPD and interested members, who would try to arrange an NPD/CPC joint visit to the Senior Center for discussions with its Director. George Cullen, a Commission member with over 50 years of Newton living, agreed to lead that effort as Chair of our Committee on Elder Affairs. George is a retired New England Telephone Company executive. He had been Director of Information Systems.

Toward the end of the meeting “Highlights of Commission Meetings for the Year Ended June 30, 2010” were distributed, but not discussed, because of time limitations. It was agreed that we would review them at a future meeting. The object will be to decide what unfinished business is worthy of further consideration.

Other member appointments by the Chair included: Fred Winer as Chair of the Committee on the NPD Auxiliary and Bernard Goulding as Chair of the Committee on Domestic Violence.

### Other Business

Richard Catrambone suggested that the Commission consider the negative effects of marihuana decriminalization as a threat to the health and safety of our school age children. He also indicated his support for a Citywide “snow shoveling project for teenagers” to earn money helping the elderly, while engaging in a constructive community effort and staying out of trouble. The Chair agreed to speak with Richard, and anyone else who is interested, about placing these matters on a future formal Agenda if there appears to be something we can do in those areas.

The next meeting will be on November 17, 2010. On a motion made by the Chair, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.